MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

54. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 5,800 for the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies by Rs. 1,250.

PRESIDENT: The question is that Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 2·76 lakhs under Demand VIII—Registration.

The grant was made.

Demand IX—General Administration, Secretariat, etc.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI: Sir, I beg to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·66 lakhs under Demand IX—General Administration, Secretariat, etc.

***Motion* 55.**

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: എന്റെ പ്രമേയം താഴെക്കാണുന്നതാണ്.

55. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,720 for establishment at the Dewan's quarters by Rs. 2,000.

കേന്തിവിലാസത്തെ എസ്റ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെന്റിനുള്ള ഇകയിൽനിന്നു ൨,൦൦൦ രൂപാ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നാണ് എന്റെ പ്രമേയം. ദിവാൻജിഅവർകൾ തല്സ്ഥാനത്തിരിക്കുമ്പോഴും സക്കീട്ടിലായിരുന്നാലും കേന്തിവിലാസത്തുള്ള എസ്റ്റാബ്ലിഷ്മെന്റുകൊണ്ടു വലിയ ആശ്വാസമുണ്ടെന്നെനിക്കറിയാം. ഈ പ്രമേയം ഹാജരാക്കിയതിന്റെ ഉദ്ദേശം അതിനെ പുനരിവാദിക്കണമെന്നുള്ളതുമല്ല; നേരെമറിച്ച് ഏതുവിധത്തിലെങ്കിലും നിവൃത്തിയുണ്ടെങ്കിൽ ശമ്പളച്ചിലവുകളെ കുറയ്ക്കണമെന്നുള്ള സംഗതിയെ ചൂണ്ടിക്കാണിക്കാൻ മാത്രമാണ്.

PRESIDENT: Then you do not make the motion?

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI: ഇല്ല.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I cannot give my permission for the withdrawal of this motion.

PRESIDENT: It does not require the permission of the House. The member has not moved it. I may point out that, if a member does not wish to press a motion, he should not speak on it. If a member speaks on a motion, he will have to begin by formally moving it, and if he then wishes to withdraw it he can do so only with the permission of the House.

The above motion was not therefore made by Mr. Kumara Pillai.

***Motions* 56 *to* 58.**

The following motions were not made:

MR. A. GOVINDA MENON:

56. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,720 for establishment at the Dewan's quarters by Rs. 2,000.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

57. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 6,000 for travelling allowance of establishment by Rs. 1,500.

MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI:

58. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 3,500 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500.

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[Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai.]

Motion 59.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

59. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1,41,867 for the Huzur Cutcherry by Rs. 1,000.

My object in putting down this motion is to call attention to the desirability of making some arrangement by which the various communities in this country may be adequately represented in the Huzur Cutcherry. The Huzur is the most important department in the State and both in the higher and the lower ranks of the Huzur Cutcherry, it is desirable that the various communities should be adequately represented. I do not want to go into details because they are well-known; and, I think all my friends on this side will agree that the Christian community and the Ezhava community and certain other communities are not represented among the Secretaries or the Assistant Secretaries or the lower ranks.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, as to the representation of the various communities we are all agreed. But I do not think that it comes within the discussion of the budget.

PRESIDENT: It is a lump sum reduction and the member can speak on a question of principle.

MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: I wanted to bring this motion so that this grievance which several communities do feel may be removed and there may be a greater concord in the country. I do not think that any community desires to have any advantage over other communities. It is not merely in the interests of the communities excluded. I think I am voicing the sentiments of the 26 lakhs of people that are supposed to be represented by members like myself. I think, therefore, that adequate steps will be taken. I do not want to press the motion. I merely wanted to talk on the subject. With the permission of the House, I withdraw the motion.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I object to the withdrawal. I very strongly protest against the very wrong and erroneous principle that the learned member has brought before this august assembly. If recruitments, particularly in the Huzur Office, were to be made on a communal basis, I do not know where Travancore administration would be in a few months' time. Recruitment on a representative basis will be most fatal to efficiency in every department. Intelligence, character and capacity alone should count in recruiting persons to the public service; and all right-minded persons who have got the interests of their community or their country at heart should leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Head of the Administration. If they have no confidence in the Dewan of Travancore, it is for them to say so and take remedial measures in the matter. There is no use in advocating erroneous principles. It is a matter purely for the Dewan to decide and it is for him to say whether A or B or C should serve under him or as the head of a department.

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MR. K. C. MAMMEN MAPPILLAI: Have not we, Sir, any right to make a representation?

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I do not wish to be interrupted unnecessarily. I may also point out to the learned member that he has made a mistake when he said that, at any rate so far as the Christian community is concerned, it is not represented at all in the Huzur Secretariat. If he looks through the civil list, he will find that the Financial Secretary is a Christian,—he is one of the best-paid officers, most deservedly so,—and he is there. If he looks lower down, there are several Christians who are either superintendents or clerks drawing a salary of Rs. 100 or more. If, by a misfortune,—I believe by want of capacity and intelligence—they have not got any employment in the public service, it is no use blaming the Head of the Administration. The present Chief Secretary started service on Rs. 15 in the very same building. By his ability, he is to-day the Chief Secretary. I submit that the subordinates referred to above have not risen up because they have not probably been intelligent or diligent enough to deserve the good opinion of their superiors and turn out the quantity of work that was assigned to them while they were junior clerks. It is no use blaming any Government presided over by the most advanced administrators for not giving promotions to the members of a particular community—to those who seek entry into the service but do not deserve it. With these words, I wish to assure the Travancore Government that they have the absolute confidence of this House and that the talk of discontent by some people is without any foundation whatsoever. I therefore refuse permission to the member to withdraw the motion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: Sir, I preface my remarks by saying that there is no member in this Council who is more desirous than myself that equal opportunities should be given to all communities in the public service. Certain communities have been suffering from grievances; some of these are real, while others are imaginary. Other grievances have been thought such from considerations of prestige. These have to be removed and I am sure that all communities will stand shoulder to shoulder and see the grievances redressed. I have only to point out that, when communal politics are drawn to this Council, the result will not be very creditable either to the Council or to the country. I know, Sir, the aptest sign is seen in the fact that the official members, although they have certain pet schemes, are prepared to give and take. We have been also guided by a principle of just and generous compromise. I am sure, Sir, that, under your guidance, these communal fights will entirely disappear from this Council and from this country. (*Hear, hear.*)

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I am in entire agreement with Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, I entirely agree with my friend Mr. Raman Pillai when he said that the Christian community as a whole is fairly represented in the Government service. But, in

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[Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.]

this connection, I should like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that Roman Catholic Christians form more than half the total number of Christians in the State. If any disability actually exists, it is they that suffer. It can be seen from the statistics that, out of 594 gazetted officers in the State, 265 appointments are held by other castes and 329 by Christians, of which only 42 go to the Roman Catholics. If there is any grievance in this matter, I beg to point out to the House that that grievance lies in the fact that the Catholics, who form more than one-half of the Christian population in the State, are not sufficiently encouraged. Mr. Mammen Mappillai's statement that, in the Department of General Administration, the Christians as a whole suffer, is, I beg to submit, a proposition entirely fallacious. But I cannot entirely agree with Mr. Raman Pillai that, if the members of the Christian communities have not come forward, it is for want of intelligence and capacity. There are many other aspects which have to be touched upon, which I think it is better that I do not touch upon on this occasion.

MR. T. K. VELU PILLAI: One question, Sir, I want to know whether certain communities have not been as a matter of fact suffering sometimes or not.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: I do not think that there is much truth in what has been said. I entirely agree with—

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, I have spoken of persons who have got in and suffered.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: I am speaking in a general way.

RAO BAHADUR K. A. KRISHNA AIYANGAR: Sir, I do not think that any section of this House, whether official or non-official, is opposed to the appointment of Christians in the Secretariat. It is untrue to suggest that the Travancore Government, at any time, deliberately adopted or pursued a policy of exclusion of the members of a particular community from admission to the Huzur Office. The cases of Mr. Watts, one of the ablest Chief Secretaries that the Government have ever had, of Mr. Vieyra, the late Chief Secretary, and of Mr. George, the present Financial Secretary to Government, are sufficient to repel that imputation. It is only an accident that members of Mr. Mammen Mappillai's community did not seek admission in large numbers in the Secretariat in the past. The pay and prospects were not, apparently, sufficiently alluring to them. It is unfortunate that this discussion should have been raised at all. It will be a matter for regret if questions of communal claims and preferments are brought up in the Council to sow seeds of dissension and discord and to weaken the usefulness of the Council whose activities should be directed to further the *common* interests of our country. Membership in a particular community should be neither a privilege nor a disqualification in the matter either of admission to the public service or of legitimate promotion. I submit this Council should not commit itself to the expression of any definite line of policy in the matter of recruitment to the public service from among His Highness' subjects based

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on communal claims. Without sacrificing efficiency or lowering standards of fitness for admission or promotion, Government would not be guilty of any impropriety in preferring members of communities not adequately represented in the public service of the State. But if we are asked to go further and recognise the policy of representation in each department of members of each community according to its numerical strength, it is a claim that this Council should strenuously resist. I oppose the motion.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Sir, I think that it is very unhappy that this motion should ever have been moved at all—the motion which is hinting a fault and hesitates. The mover himself wants to scamper away from the motion being pressed, because he says that he wanted only to hint certain things. If my friend Mr. Mammen Mappillai looks at the tendency of politics of the approved variety in Travancore as it exists at present, nobody would raise any serious obstacle to any particular person on the ground of race or religion. So far as this House is concerned, this hinting was absolutely unnecessary.

Then as to the question whether Christians have not been entertained in the Secretariat, the existence of Mr. Watts and Mr. Vieyra as the Chief Secretaries of the State has already been pointed out. I would also refer to the presence of Mr. George on the other side of the Secretariat—which is really *the* Secretariat. All these must have necessarily convinced him that the motion, after all, is not supported upon any real fact. And, therefore, we do not want—whatever be the hardship that a person may in his imagination feel—we do not want a duplication of what may be regarded as a representation of the public gardens to be reproduced in the Huzur Secretariat. We have got various varieties represented there. That is not the thing that should be aimed at. The question of efficiency should be in the forefront and every other consideration should certainly be subordinate to it, other conditions being equal. To supplant the question of efficiency, no considerations of religion or race should be urged. I have to raise my humble voice of protest against this. It is efficiency that has to be steadily kept in view; and whenever it is departed from, I would very seriously point to the very undesirable consequences that might follow it. With these observations, feeling sorry for the motion, I wish to resume my seat.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, it is extremely unfortunate that Mr. Mammen Mappillai brought forward this motion. We are here to help, not hinder; we want a spirit of harmony. But Mr. Mammen Mappillai has thrown the apple of discord, just at the outset, in this Council when some result might be expected. If we go into the country we have got more than 300 different communities. It is impossible for the Government to give preferential representation to all these communities in the public service. Amongst the Christians themselves, there are more than 100 subdivisions as the Mar Thoma Syrians and a motley number of other sections. There are the Jacobites and the

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[Mr. J. John Nidiry.]

Roman Catholics and sections upon sections; and amongst them there are the Northists and the Southists.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: They belong to the same church.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Amongst the Latin Christians there are the Three Hundreds, the Five Hundreds and the Seven Hundreds; and at the present day in Travancore there are as many as thirty sects. I wish to correct Mr. Hoogewerf. Among the Roman Catholics there are those who are called the Northists and the Southists. And even among them there are 24 different sects.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I beg to state that they are not different sects.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: There is this essential difference; they refuse even to worship in the same church. There are 24 different sections in Travancore.

MR. JOSEPH PANJIKARAN: Sir, will the member inform the House in which instance Roman Catholics refused to worship in the same church?

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: During the time of Bishop Mackil, the Northists of Changanachery, Kottayam and Alleppey would not accept him as their bishop and would not even go to the church where his people presided.

SOME VOICES: It is a mistaken statement, Sir; it is a wrong statement.

PRESIDENT: Order, order.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: I do not see that it is a mistake.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF: Sir, I request that religious subjects be not discussed here. It is better for us not to continue the controversy any longer.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR: Sir, If I have in any way wounded their feelings, I beg pardon of the members. I am sorry that I was drawn into this controversy. I humbly apologise that I entered into a discussion on this particular matter.

MR. J. JOHN NIDIRY: Sir, I have only a few words to say with regard to this point. If I understand Mr. Mammen Mappillai correctly, he was introducing this cut simply to bring home to the authorities and the House a principle that should be adopted in the matter of appointments in the Huzur Office. The principle of due representation of all classes in the service as far as possible, without affecting the efficiency and with due regard to the numerical strength and other qualifications, is well recognised in Madras, Mysore and other places. I should think that it should be given effect to in our State as well. I am at one with my friend in advocating this principle and appeal to this House and also to the authorities that it should be kept in view and carried out as far as possible. It was only with that object, if I understand correctly, that this motion was discussed in this assembly.

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And I wish that that principle may be accepted. I cannot understand why there should be so much hubbub about it. It is a sound principle worthy of consideration. So far as I am able to understand, it is a principle which should be respected and carried out. Mr. K. P. Raman Pillai said that, if people have no confidence in the Dewan, they should try to get him removed. It is because the people *have* confidence in the Dewan that we have discussed it here.

PRESIDENT: I think that we have discussed the matter sufficiently. Will the House permit Mr. Mammen Mappillai to withdraw his motion?

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

***Motions* 60 *and* 61.**

The following motions were not made:

MR. N. KUMARAN:

60. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for purchase of books, etc., by Rs. 100.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI:

61. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. 1·66 lakhs under Demand IX by Rs. 5,000.

PRESIDENT: The question is that a grant not exceeding Rs. 1·66 lakhs be made to the Government under Demand IX—General Administration—Secretariat, etc.

The grant was made.

Demand X General Administration—Account Office.

MR. K. GEORGE: Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. ·91 lakh, under Demand X—General Administration—Account Office.

***Motion* 62**

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I beg to make the following motion:

62. To reduce the total allotment of Rs. ·19 lakh under Demand X by Rs. 100.

Two senior Assistant Account Officers have been provided for in the recent reorganisation. I do not quite understand how in one particular office there can be more than one Senior Assistant Account Officer. I want an explanation on the point.

MR. K. GEORGE: It is only a class name and is not a new name.

MR. K. P. RAMAN PILLAI: Sir, in supporting my friend's motion I only wish to point out that we have two Head Sirkar Vakils, and there is not much work to be done by them. But the second one has taken up the management of the Sugar Company.

PRESIDENT: You are out of order.

MR. G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI: Sir, I withdraw my motion.

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